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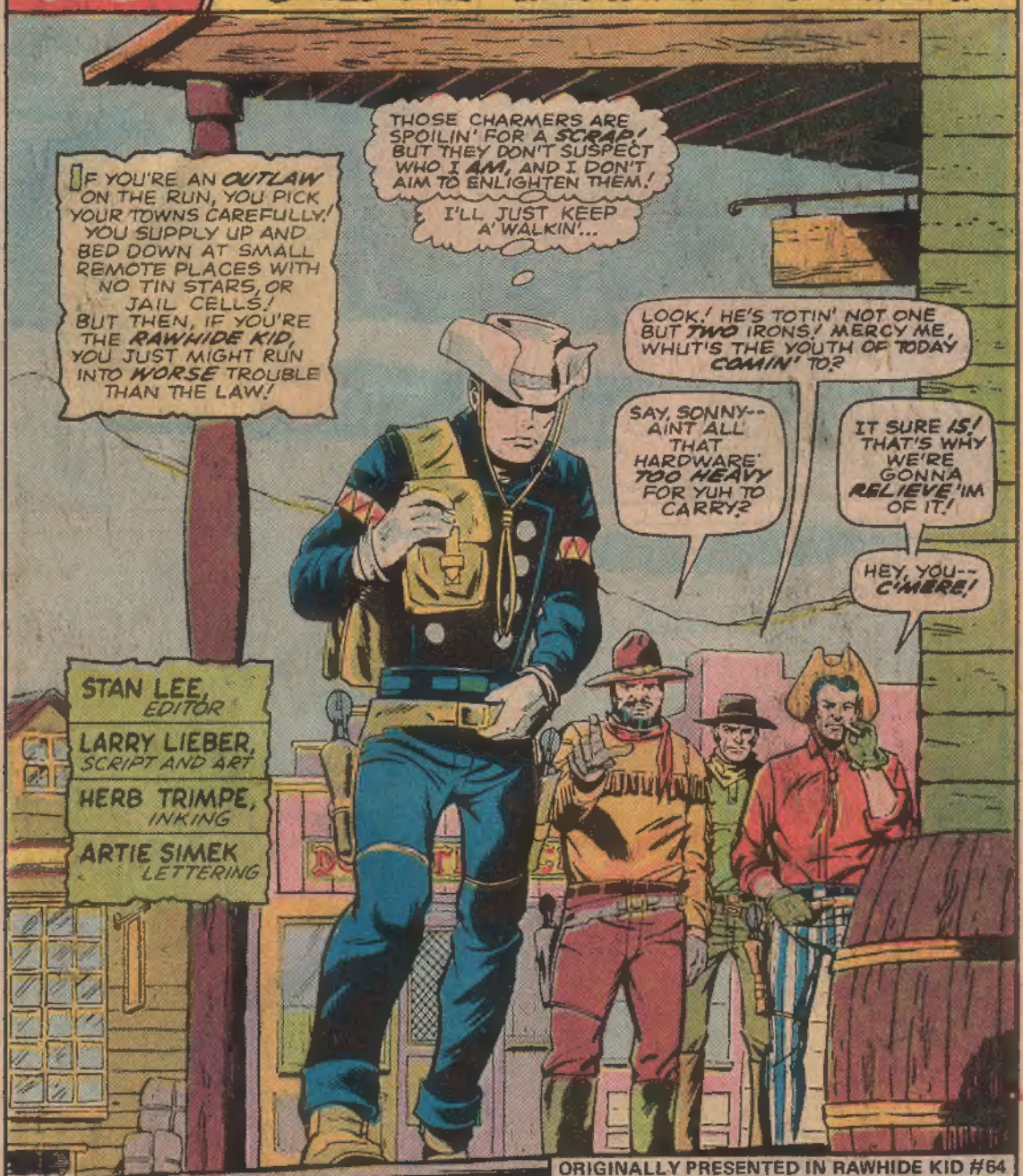
IF YOU'RE AN OUTLAW ON THE RUN, YOU PICK YOUR TOWNS CAREFULLY! YOU SUPPLY UP AND BED DOWN AT SMALL REMOTE PLACES WITH NO TIN STARS, OR JAIL CELLS! BUT THEN, IF YOU'RE THE RAWHIDE KID, YOU JUST MIGHT RUN INTO WORSE TROUBLE THAN THE LAW!
THOSE CHARMERS ARE SPOILIN' FOR A SCRAP! BUT THEY DON'T SUSPECT WHO I AM, AND I DON'T AIM TO ENLIGHTEN THEM!
I'LL JUST KEEP A' WALKIN'...
LOOK! HE'S TOTIN' NOT ONE BUT TWO IRONS! MERCY ME, WHUT'S THE YOUTH OF TODAY COMIN' TO?
SAY, SONNY-- AIN'T ALL THAT HARDWARE TOO HEAVY FOR YUH TO CARRY?
IT SURE IS! THAT'S WHY WE'RE GONNA RELIEVE 'IM OF IT!
HEY, YOU-- C'MERE!
STAN LEE, EDITOR
LARRY LIEBER, SCRIPT AND ART
HERB TRIMPE, INKING
ARTIE SIMEK LETTERING

ORIGINALLY PRESENTED IN RAWHIDE KID #64

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ARE YOU BOYS TALKING TO ME?
KEE-RECT! UNBUCKLE YORE HARDWARE AND HAND IT OVER, PRONTO!
YEH, IN THIS TERRITORY ONLY MEN WEAR IRONS--NOT WET-NOSED SHAVERS!
I'M RIGHT SORRY TO HEAR THAT, 'CAUSE IF YOU HYENAS WANT MY GUNS, YOU'LL HAVE TO GET 'EM THE HARD WAY!
WAL, I'LL BE... THE SQUIRT'S SMART TALKIN' US!
HE NEEDS TO LEARN SOME MANNERS!
LET'S WORK 'IM OVER!
YEH! THEN HE WON'T HAVE MUCH NEED FOR GUNS...OR ANYTHIN' ELSE!
THAT'S IT, BOYS--SURROUND 'IM! KEEP 'IM OFF BALANCE!
HURRY, JUD! I--I CAN'T HARDLY HOLD 'IM! HE'S TOUGHER'N HE LOOKS!
YOU AINT SEEN NUTHIN', YET! WAIT'LL I GET STARTED!
YUH GOT A BIG MOUTH, SONNY, THAT I'M GONNA ENJOY CLOSIN'!

THE YOUTH--HE DEFEATED ALL OF THEM! HE MAY BE THE ONE WE SEEK! THE ONE TO SAVE US!
BUT WAIT--THE FIGHT IS NOT YET ENDED...
THAT CLICKING SOUND BEHIND ME! TEN TO ONE, THAT WAS THE COCKING OF A GUN HAMMER!

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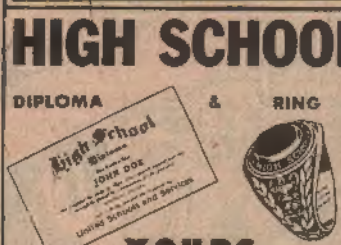

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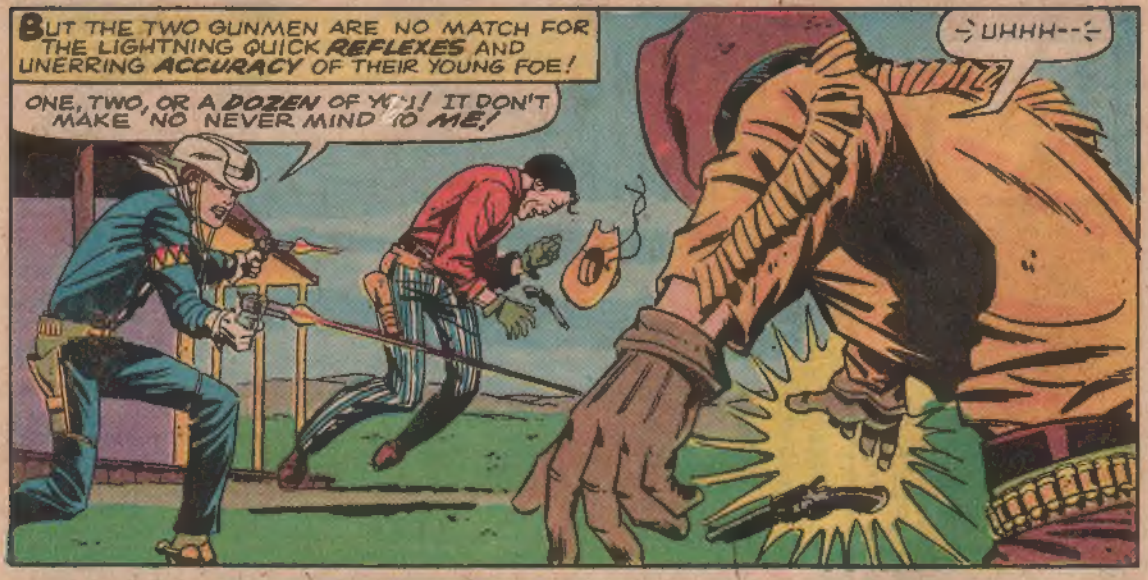
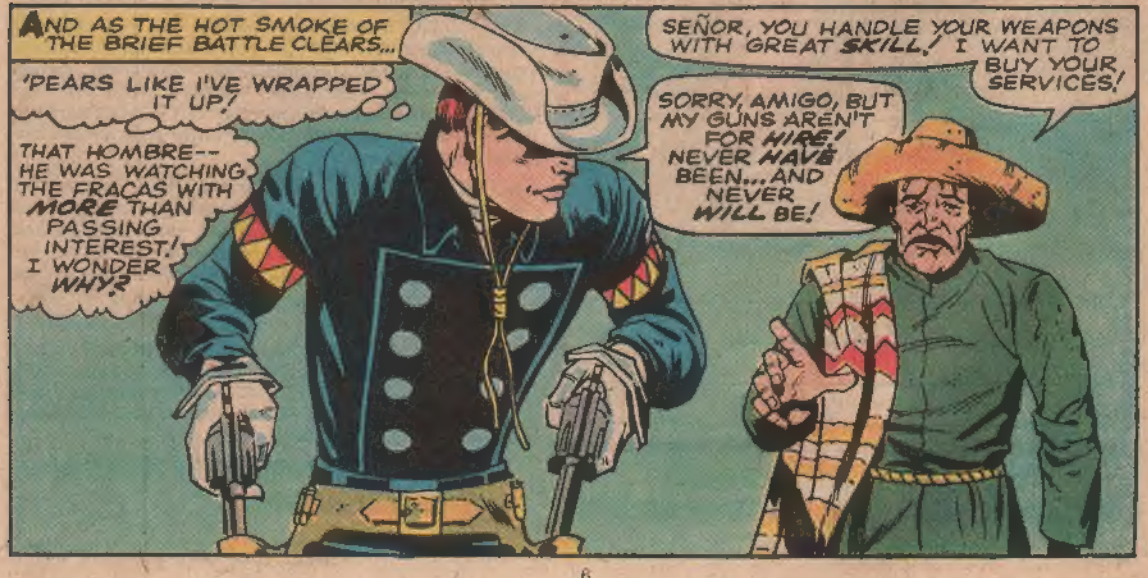
KA-
POW!
I WAS RIGHT! SORRY, POLECAT, BUT I DON'T GET BUSHWHACKED THAT EASY!
HE GOT RAFE...BUT MOOSE HAS MOVED TO THE OTHER SIDE OF 'IM! WE'LL CATCH 'IM IN A CROSSFIRE!


BUT THE TWO GUNMEN ARE NO MATCH FOR THE LIGHTNING QUICK REFLEXES AND UNERRING ACCURACY OF THEIR YOUNG FOE!
ONE, TWO, OR A DOZEN OF YOU! IT DON'T MAKE NO NEVER MIND TO ME!
UHHH--


AND AS THE HOT SMOKE OF THE BRIEF BATTLE CLEARS...
'PEARS LIKE I'VE WRAPPED IT UP!
THAT HOMBRE--HE WAS WATCHING THE FRACAS WITH MORE THAN PASSING INTEREST! I WONDER WHY?
SEÑOR, YOU HANDLE YOUR WEAPONS WITH GREAT SKILL! I WANT TO BUY YOUR SERVICES!
SORRY, AMIGO, BUT MY GUNS AREN'T FOR HIRE! NEVER HAVE BEEN...AND NEVER WILL BE!

BUT YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND! IT IS NOT I ALONE WHO HAS NEED OF YOU, BUT MY ENTIRE VILLAGE!
WHY?
BECAUSE THE BANDIT ZAMORA AND HIS DESPERADOES PREY UPON US LIKE WOLVES UPON THE CHICKENS!
MY PEOPLE ARE SIMPLE FARMERS--UNSKILLED IN THE USE OF GUNS!
WE ARE NO MATCH FOR THE BANDITOS WHO DESCEND FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO STEAL THE FRUITS OF OUR TOIL!
CAN'T THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES HELP YOU?
OUR VILLAGE IS SMALL AND FAR REMOVED FROM THE LAW'S PROTECTION!
IF ZAMORA IS TO BE STOPPED, IT MUST BE BY ONE SUCH AS YOU, SEÑOR...A GUNFIGHTER!
WE HAVE LITTLE MONEY! BUT WE WILL GLADLY GIVE IT ALL TO YOU, IF ONLY YOU WILL DEFEAT THE DESPERADOES!
THERE ARE SOME FOLKS WHO THINK I'M A DESPERADO MYSELF!
MAYBE THAT DOES FIT ME FOR THE JOB!
OKAY, SEÑOR, I'LL HELP YOUR VILLAGE--BUT NOT FOR MONEY!
THEN FOR WHAT REASON?
LET'S JUST SAY IT GOES WITH THE NAME--RAWHIDE KID!
BUT EVEN AS THE KID AND HIS COMPANION HEAD SOUTH, MENACING HOOFBEATS AGAIN THUNDER TOWARD A HELPLESS VILLAGE!
IT IS ZAMORA AND HIS OUTLAWS!
WE MUST FLEE! WE MUST HIDE!
NO! THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM ZAMORA!
WE MUST REMAIN AND ENDURE HIS TYRANNY, AS ONE SUFFERS THE STORM!

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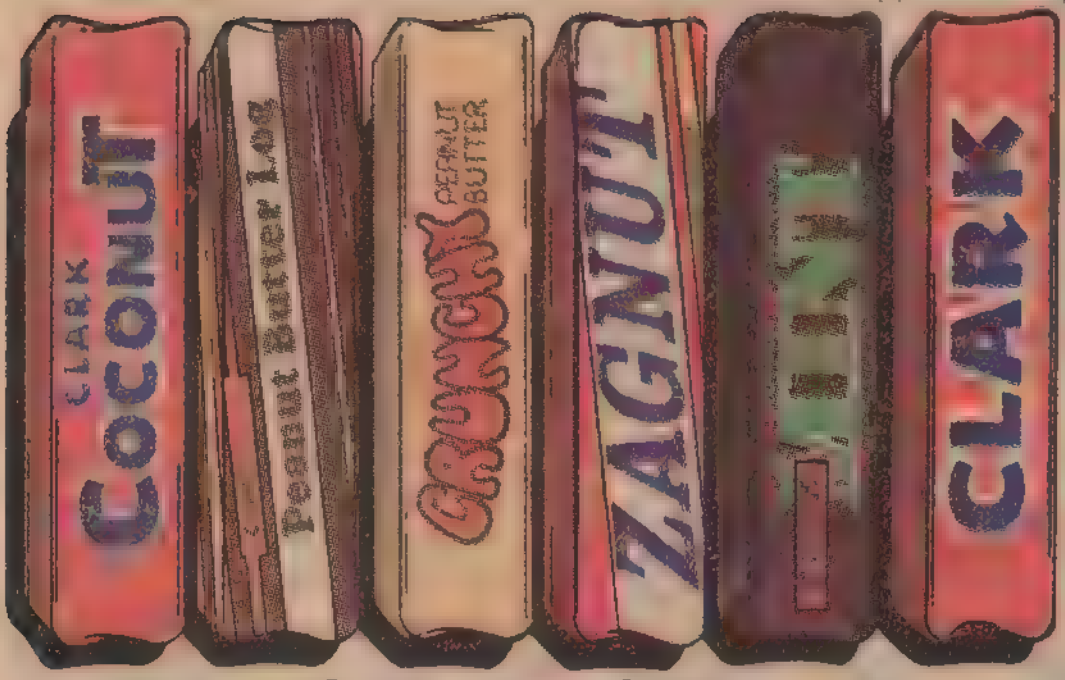

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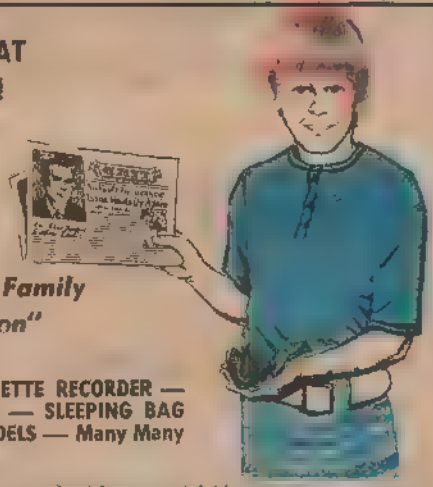

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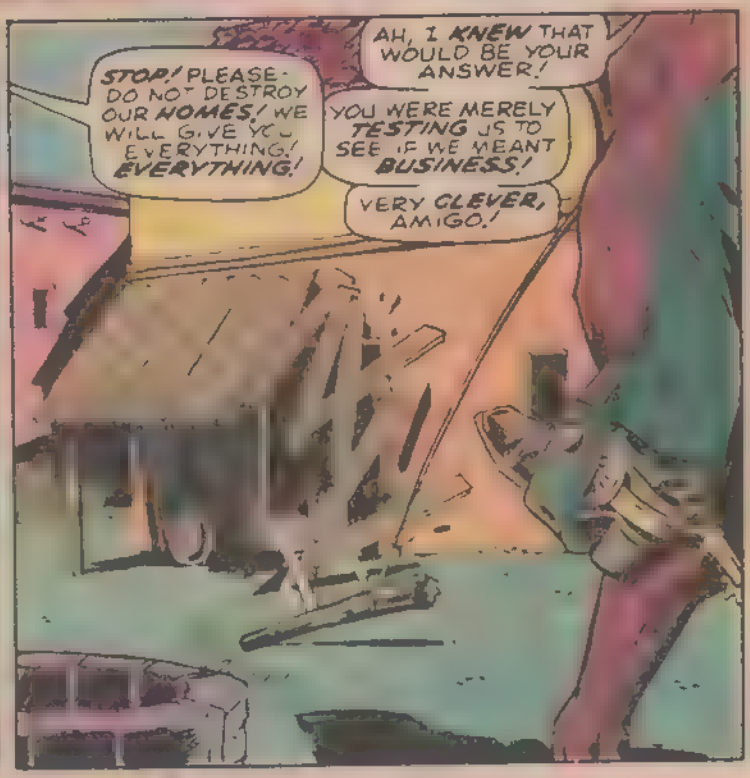
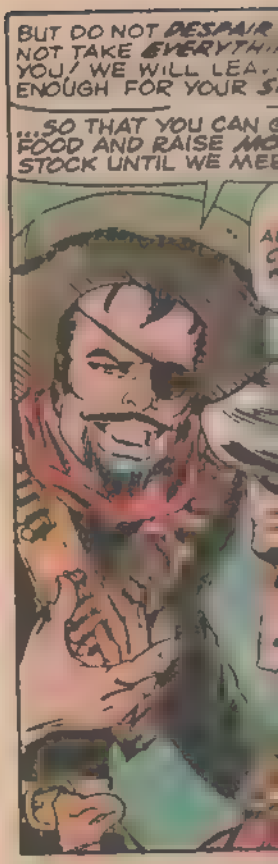
ARE YOU NOT HAPPY TO SEE ZAMORA?
WHY HAVE YOU RETURNED, EVIL ONE? DID YOU NOT STEAL EVERYTHING FROM US LAST TIME?
BUT THAT WAS LONG AGO, MY FRIEND...

SINCE THEN, YOU HAVE HAD ME TO WORK HARD AND REPLACE WHAT WE TOOK...
AND SO, WE ARE BACK AGAIN--TO TAKE AGAIN!
BUT MAYBE YOU HAVE BEEN LAZY--AND THERE IS NOTHING FOR US TO STEAL...

IF SO, WE MUST MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF YOUR VILLAGE, SO THAT OTHERS WILL NOT ALSO DENY US TRIBUTE


STOP! PLEASE-DO NOT DESTROY OUR HOMES! WE WILL GIVE YOU EVERYTHING! EVERYTHING!
AH, I KNEW THAT WOULD BE YOUR ANSWER!
YOU WERE MERELY TESTING US TO SEE IF WE MEANT BUSINESS!
VERY CLEVER, AMIGO!


BUT DO NOT DESPAIR
NOT TAKE EVERYTH
YOU! WE WILL LEA
ENOUGH FOR YOUR S
...SO THAT YOU CAN
FOOD AND RAISE MO
STOCK UNTIL WE MEE

BUT THEN, ZAMORA
FROM PHILOS
MATTERS MORE M
AH, MARIA, HOW
YOU LOOK TODAY!
YOU STOP THIS FOOLISHNESS AND AGREE TO BECOME MY WIFE?

BUT DO NOT DESPAIR! WE WILL NOT TAKE EVERYTHING FROM YOU! WE WILL LEAVE YOU ENOUGH FOR YOUR SURVIVAL...
...SO THAT YOU CAN GROW MORE FOOD AND RAISE MORE LIVESTOCK UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN!
HOW LONG WILL THIS ABOMINATION CONTINUE? WHEN DOES IT END?
IT ENDS WHEN THE HAWK NO LONGER PURSUES THE SPARROW, OR THE LION DEVOURS THE DEER! IN SHORT, WHEN THE SUN BURNS OUT!
BUT THEN, ZAMORA TURNS FROM PHILOSOPHY TO MATTERS MORE MUNDANE...
AH, MARIA, HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU LOOK TODAY! WHEN WILL YOU STOP THIS FOOLISHNESS AND AGREE TO BECOME MY WIFE?
I'D SOONER MARRY A PIG!
BAH! A WOMAN'S FOOLISH PRIDE! JUST BECAUSE YOU DO NOT LOVE ME! BUT NO MATTER! IN TIME...
I WILL LOATHE YOU EVEN MORE THAN I DO NOW!
UNHAND ME!
I SAID, RELEASE ME!
SLAP!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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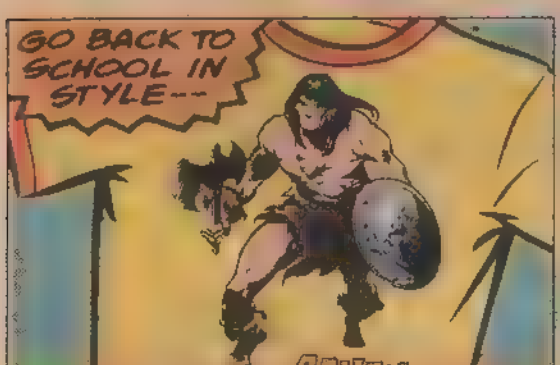

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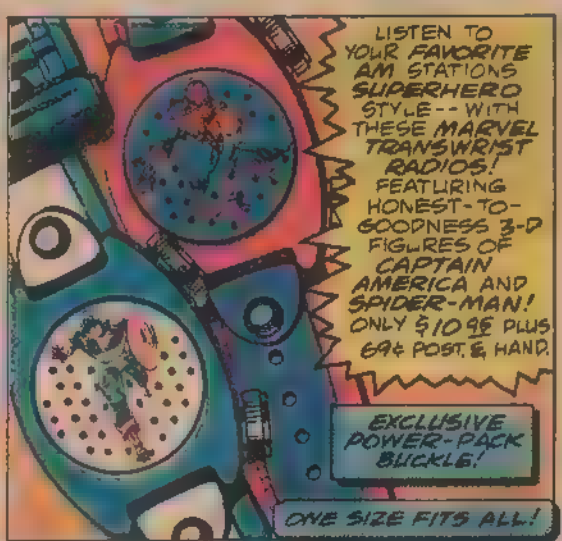

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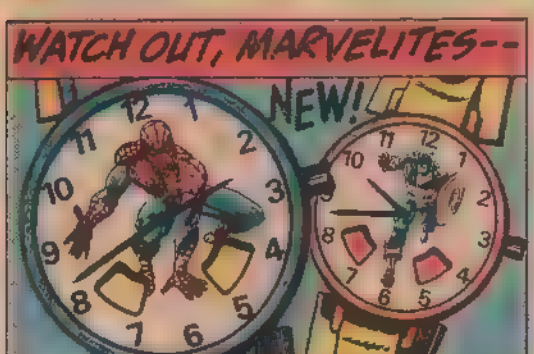

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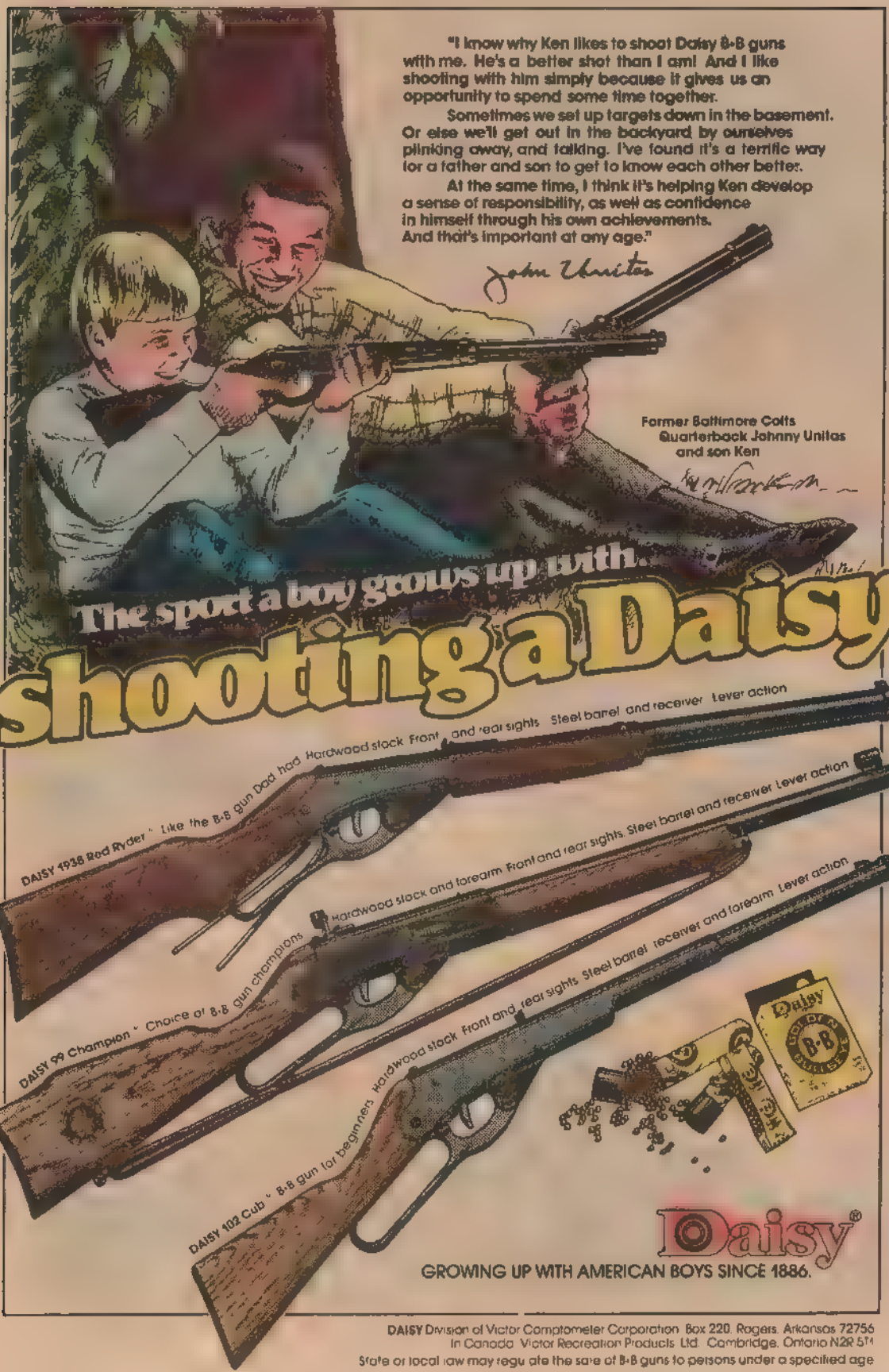

"I know why Ken likes to shoot Daisy B-B guns with me. He's a better shot than I am! And I like shooting with him simply because it gives us an opportunity to spend some time together.

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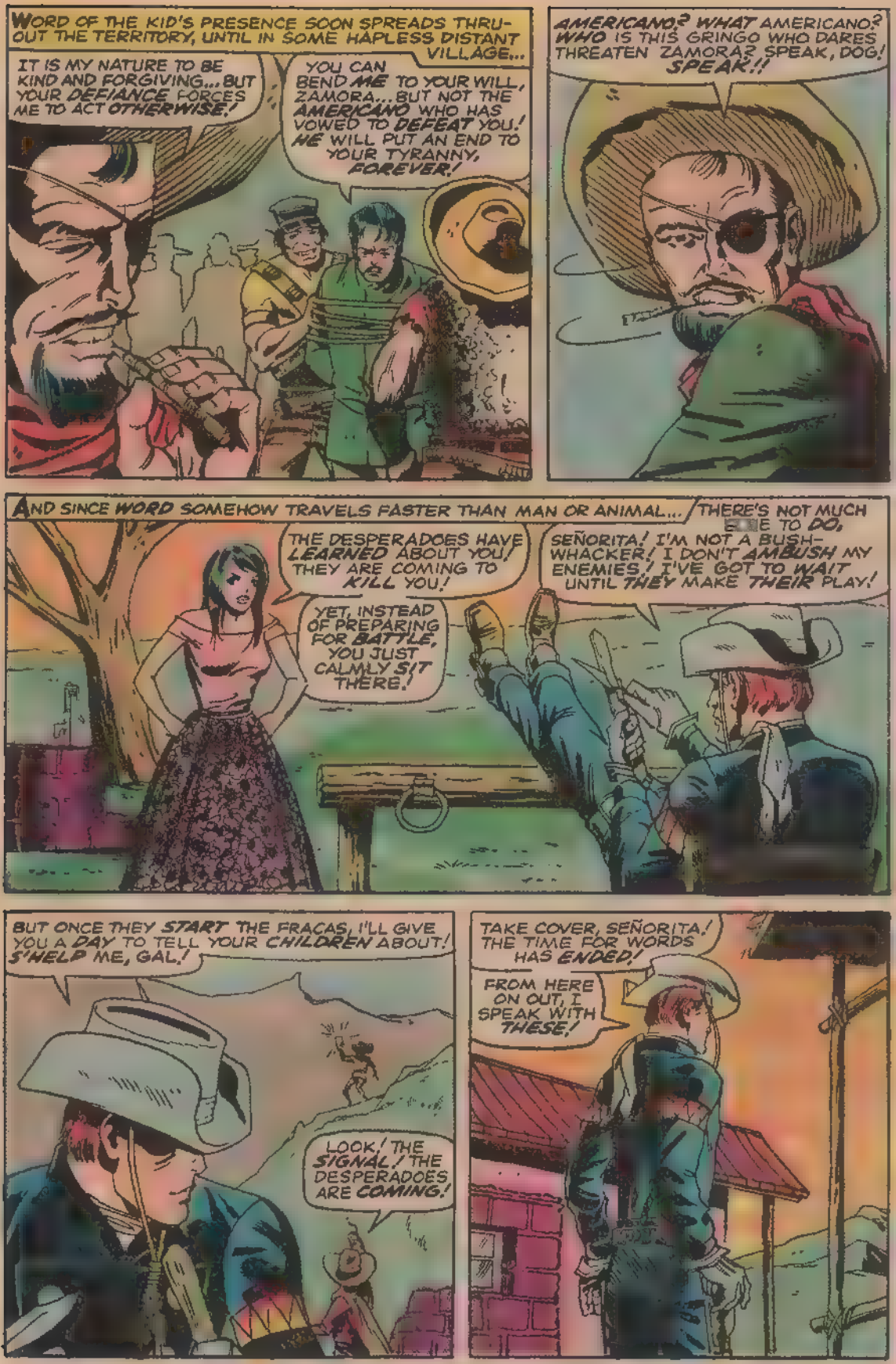
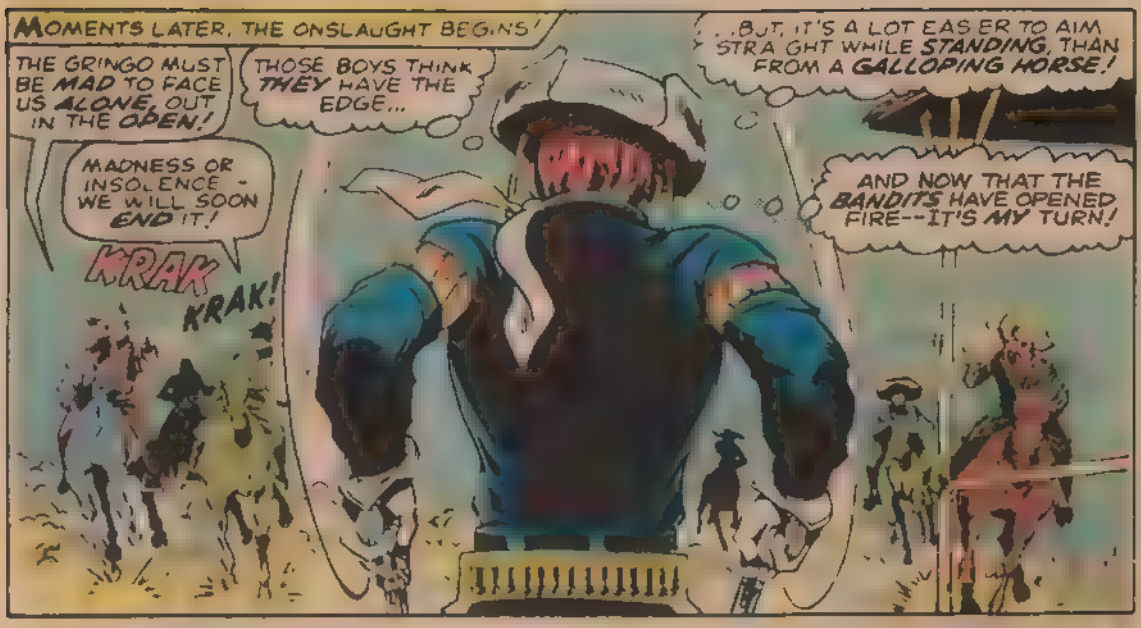
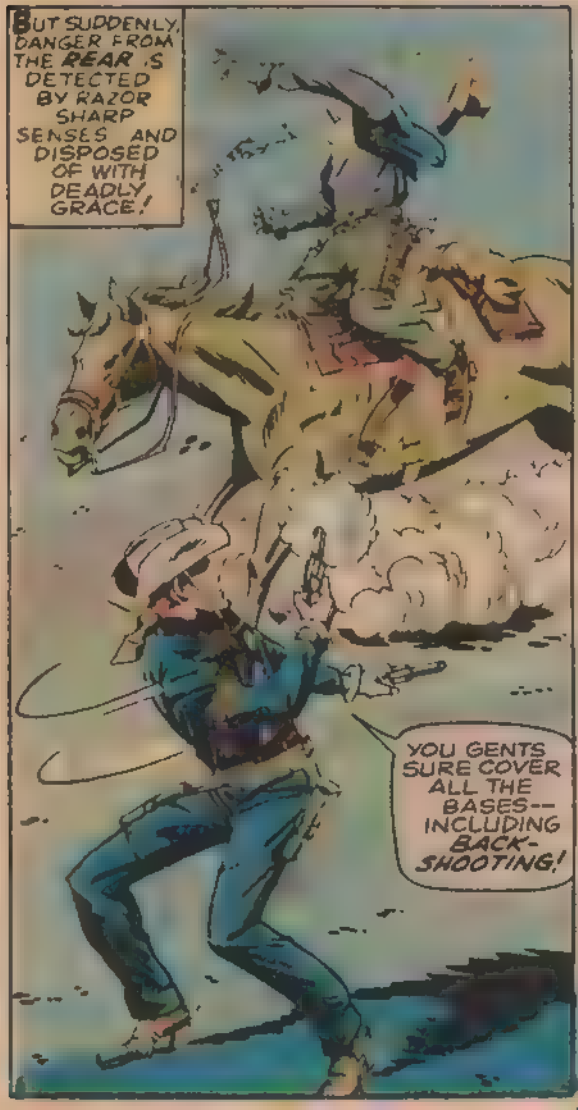
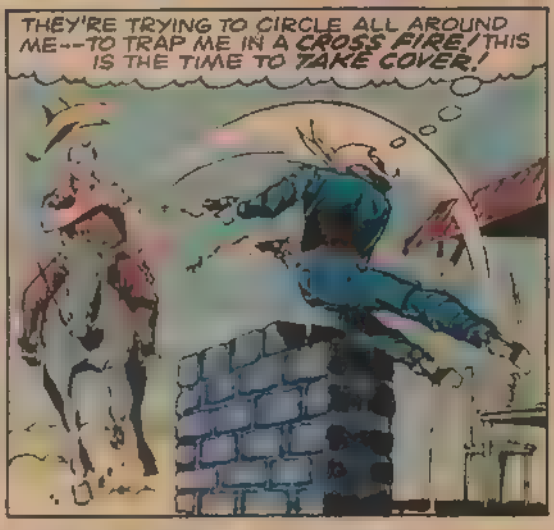
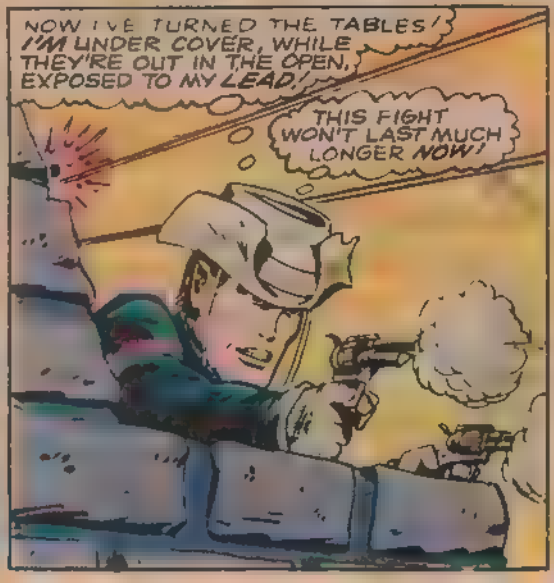
CHIHUAHUA! WHAT SPIRIT! WHAT A TEMPER! IS IT ANY WONDER THAT ZAMORA ADORES YOU?
I HOPE THAT YOU DO ADORE ME...
...SO THAT YOUR FUTILE UNRETURNED LOVE WILL CAUSE YOU TO SUFFER... AS YOU CAUSE MY PEOPLE TO SUFFER!
YOUR PEOPLE ARE SHEEP, BORN TO BE SHEARED! AMONG THEM, ONLY YOU WALK WITH A SPINE! HA[redacted] LA VISTA!
BUT SOON, THERE COMES ANOTHER WHOSE SPINE HAS NEVER BEEN DOUBTED...
LOOK! MENDOZA RETURNS... BUT WITH ONLY ONE HOMBRE!
HE IS CALLED THE RAWHIDE KID! HE WILL DEFEAT THE BANDITOS!
BUT THEY ARE SO MANY! HOW CAN HE ALONE STOP THEM?
WITH SKILL AND EXPERIENCE! I'LL SHOW YOU! SET UP SOME TIN CANS!
MADRE! HOW CAN ONE SO YOUNG HAVE LEARNED TO SHOOT SO WELL?
THE HARD WAY-- OF NECESSITY!
SATISFIED WITH THE PERFORMANCE?
YOUR GUN IS SWIFT AND TRUE, SENOR!
I PRAY IT WILL BE NO LESS SO AGAINST THE DESPERADOES!
POW! KA-POW! POW! POW!
SO DO I, AMIGO... SO DO I...


WORD OF THE KID'S PRESENCE SOON SPREADS THRU-OUT THE TERRITORY, UNTIL IN SOME HAPLESS DISTANT VILLAGE...
IT IS MY NATURE TO BE KIND AND FORGIVING... BUT YOUR DEFIANCE FORCES ME TO ACT OTHERWISE!
YOU CAN BEND ME TO YOUR WILL, ZAMORA... BUT NOT THE AMERICANO WHO HAS VOWED TO DEFEAT YOU! HE WILL PUT AN END TO YOUR TYRANNY, FOREVER!
AMERICANO? WHAT AMERICANO? WHO IS THIS GRINGO WHO DARES THREATEN ZAMORA? SPEAK, DOG! SPEAK!!
AND SINCE WORD SOMEHOW TRAVELS FASTER THAN MAN OR ANIMAL...
THE DESPERADOES HAVE LEARNED ABOUT YOU! THEY ARE COMING TO KILL YOU!
YET, INSTEAD OF PREPARING FOR BATTLE, YOU JUST CALMLY SIT THERE!
THERE'S NOT MUCH [illegible]E TO DO, SEÑORITA! I'M NOT A BUSH-WHACKER! I DON'T AMBUSH MY ENEMIES! I'VE GOT TO WAIT UNTIL THEY MAKE THEIR PLAY!
BUT ONCE THEY START THE FRACAS, I'LL GIVE YOU A DAY TO TELL YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT! S'HELP ME, GAL!
LOOK! THE SIGNAL! THE DESPERADOES ARE COMING!
TAKE COVER, SEÑORITA! THE TIME FOR WORDS HAS ENDED!
FROM HERE ON OUT, I SPEAK WITH THESE!


MOMENTS LATER, THE ONSLAUGHT BEGINS!
THE GRINGO MUST BE MAD TO FACE US ALONE, OUT IN THE OPEN!
THOSE BOYS THINK THEY HAVE THE EDGE...
. . .BUT, IT'S A LOT EASIER TO AIM STRAIGHT WHILE STANDING, THAN FROM A GALLOPING HORSE!
MADNESS OR INSOLENCE - WE WILL SOON END IT!
KRAK KRAK!
AND NOW THAT THE BANDITS HAVE OPENED FIRE--IT'S MY TURN!


BUT SUDDENLY, DANGER FROM THE REAR IS DETECTED BY RAZOR SHARP SENSES AND DISPOSED OF WITH DEADLY GRACE!
YOU GENTS SURE COVER ALL THE BASES--INCLUDING BACK-SHOOTING!


THEY'RE TRYING TO CIRCLE ALL AROUND ME--TO TRAP ME IN A CROSS FIRE! THIS IS THE TIME TO TAKE COVER!


NOW I'VE TURNED THE TABLES! I'M UNDER COVER, WHILE THEY'RE OUT IN THE OPEN, EXPOSED TO MY LEAD!
THIS FIGHT WON'T LAST MUCH LONGER NOW!

BUT THE WILY BANDIT CHIEF HAS NO INTENTION OF LOSING THE SHOOT-OUT!
MARIA COMES OUT OF HIDING, TO SAVOR OUR DEFEAT BY THE GRINGO! FOR THIS, SHE WILL PAY! SHE HERSELF WILL TURN OUR DEFEAT INTO VICTORY!
WHA--LET GO--PUT ME DOWN!
NOT ON YOUR LIFE, LITTLE ONE!
YOU--PROTECTOR OF THIS VILLAGE--DROP YOUR GUNS, OR THE SEÑORITA DIES!
WHA--YOU WOULDN'T! YOU'RE BLUFFING!
ZAMORA DOES NOT BLUFF! YOUR GUNS, SEÑOR!
I-I CAN'T RISK HER LIFE!
OKAY, POLECAT, YOU WIN.
.. FOR NOW!
FOR NOW AND ALWAYS, HA! HA!
TELL ME, AMERICANO, WHY YOU DEFEND THESE WORTHLESS PEASANTS? WHY YOU TAKE ON HOPELESS ODDS IN A FIGHT THAT IS NOT YOURS?
I RECKON I JUST NATURALLY HATE BULLIES AND THIEVES NO MATTER WHICH SIDE OF THE BORDER THEY'RE ON!
THOSE ARE BRAVE WORDS THAT YOU WILL SOON REGRET!
PUT THIS GRINGO ON HIS HORSE! WE ARE MOVING OUT!
FROM NOW ON, HOMBRE, YOU RIDE WITH US, FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE, TIED UP LIKE A HELPLESS ANIMAL!
I WANT ALL THE PEASANTS TO SEE THE FATE OF THOSE WHO OPPOSE ME!
IT WILL DISCOURAGE THEM FROM SENDING FOR MORE GRINGO PROTECTORS!
I ALONE AM TO BLAME FOR THIS! HAD I NOT LEFT MY PLACE OF HIDING, THE KID WOULD HAVE DEFEATED THE BANDITOS!
INSTEAD, HE IS NOW A PRISONER, AND MY PEOPLE ARE STILL AT THE MERCY OF ZAMORA!
YET ALL IS NOT LOST! I CAN STILL RIGHT THE WRONG I HAVE DONE!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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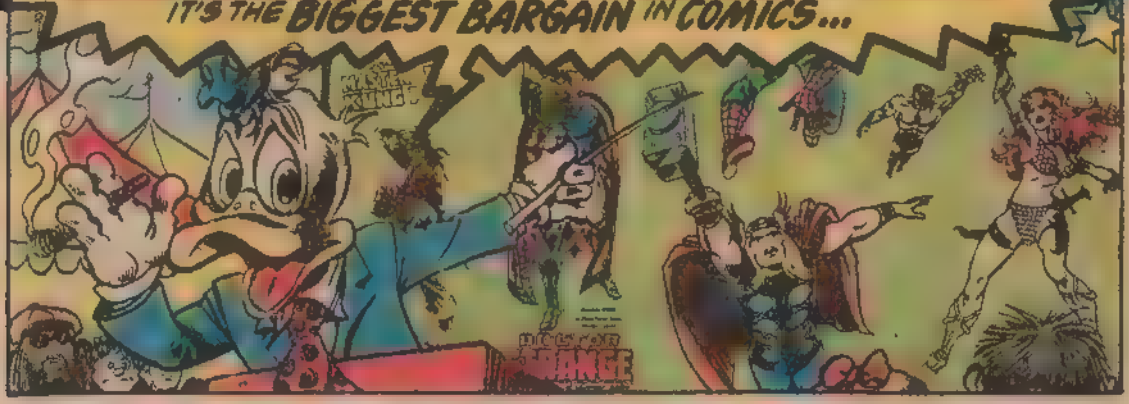

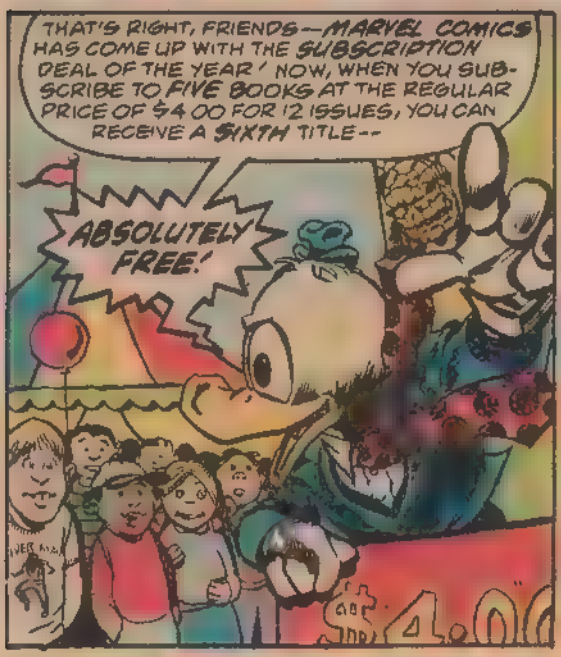
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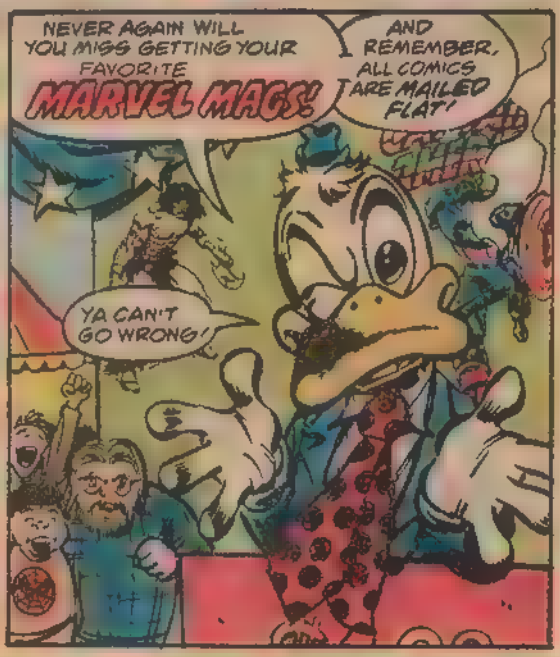

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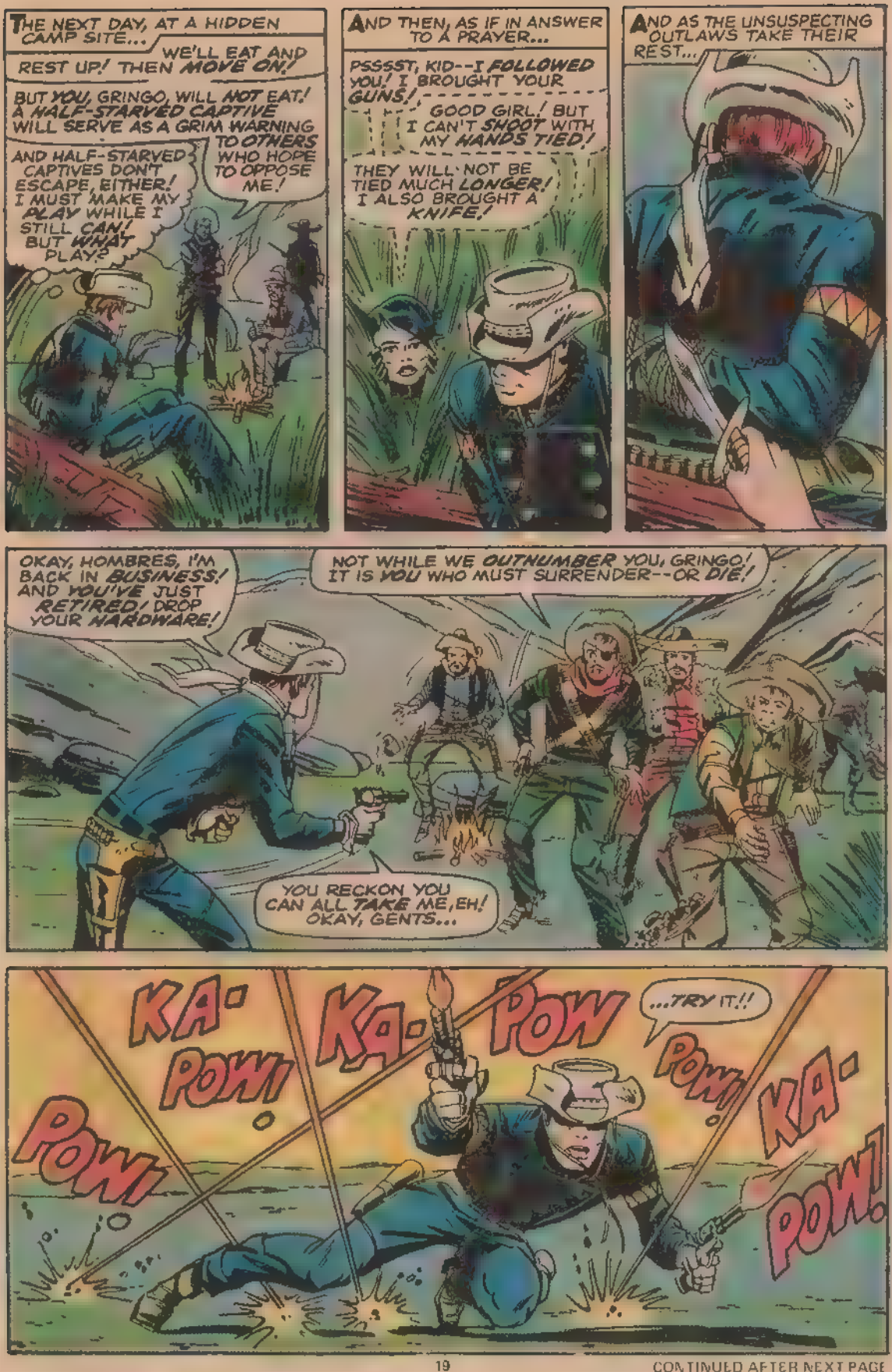
THE NEXT DAY, AT A HIDDEN CAMP SITE...
WE'LL EAT AND REST UP! THEN MOVE ON!
BUT YOU, GRINGO, WILL NOT EAT! A HALF-STARVED CAPTIVE WILL SERVE AS A GRIM WARNING TO OTHERS WHO HOPE TO OPPOSE ME!
AND HALF-STARVED CAPTIVES DON'T ESCAPE, EITHER! I MUST MAKE MY PLAY WHILE I STILL CAN! BUT WHAT PLAY?
AND THEN, AS IF IN ANSWER TO A PRAYER...
PSSSST, KID--I FOLLOWED YOU! I BROUGHT YOUR GUNS!
GOOD GIRL! BUT I CAN'T SHOOT WITH MY HANDS TIED!
THEY WILL NOT BE TIED MUCH LONGER! I ALSO BROUGHT A KNIFE!
AND AS THE UNSUSPECTING OUTLAWS TAKE THEIR REST...
OKAY, HOMBRES, I'M BACK IN BUSINESS! AND YOU'VE JUST RETIRED! DROP YOUR HARDWARE!
NOT WHILE WE OUTNUMBER YOU, GRINGO! IT IS YOU WHO MUST SURRENDER--OR DIE!
YOU RECKON YOU CAN ALL TAKE ME, EH! OKAY, GENTS...
KA-POW!
KA-POW!
...TRY IT!!
POW!
KA-POW!
POW!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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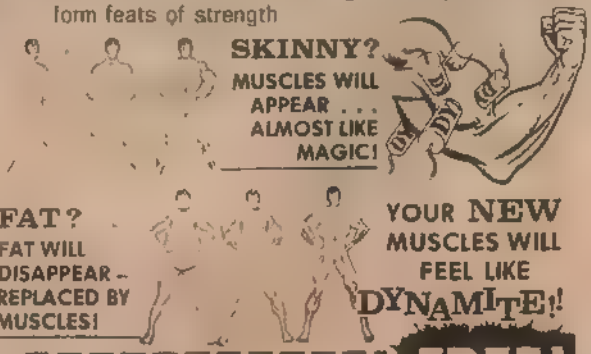
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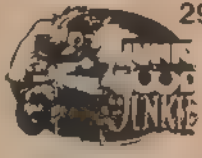

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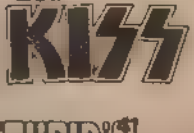

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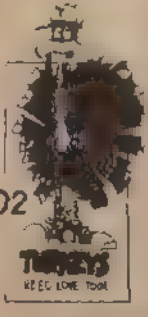

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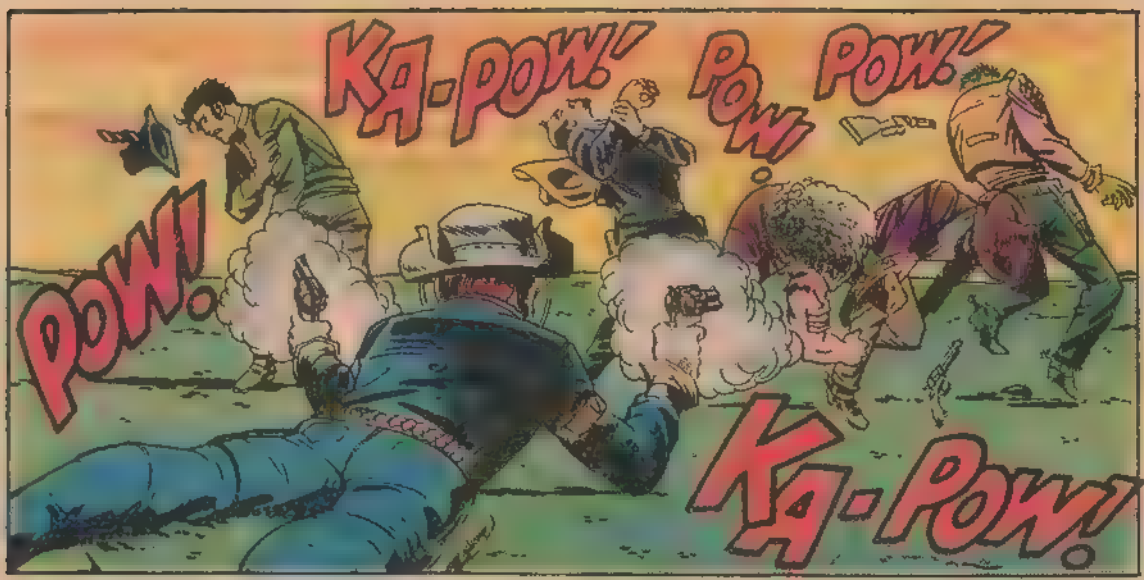
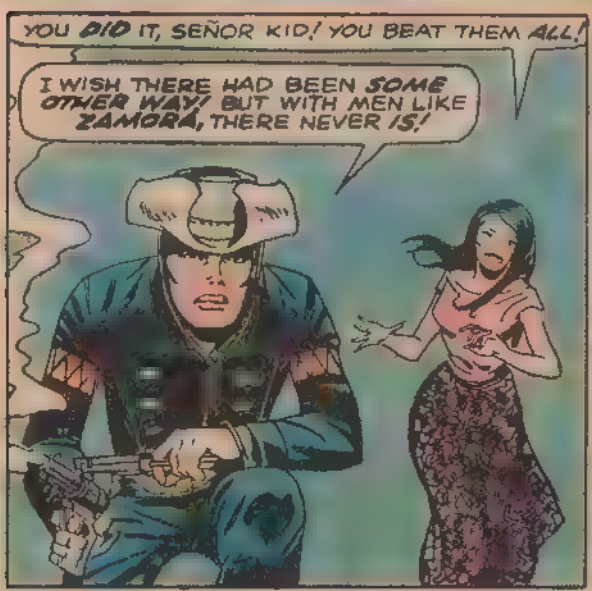
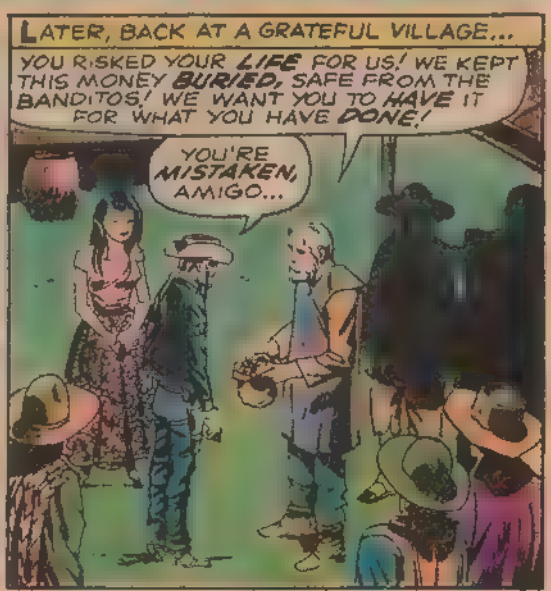
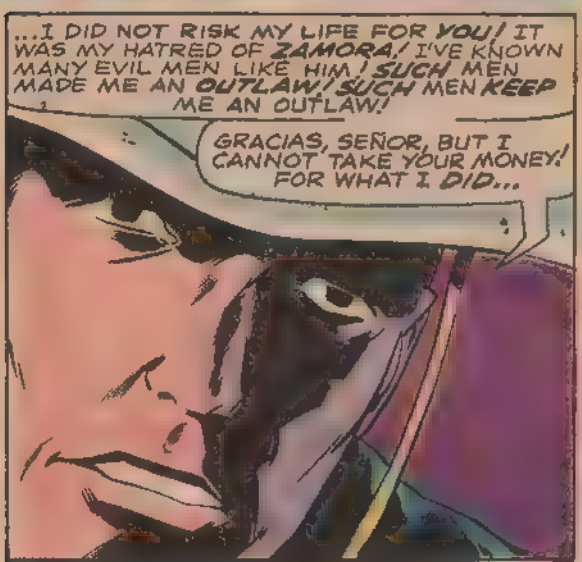

KA-POW!
POW!
POW!
POW!
KA-POW!


YOU DID IT, SEÑOR KID! YOU BEAT THEM ALL!
I WISH THERE HAD BEEN SOME OTHER WAY! BUT WITH MEN LIKE ZAMORA, THERE NEVER IS!


LATER, BACK AT A GRATEFUL VILLAGE...
YOU RISKED YOUR LIFE FOR US! WE KEPT THIS MONEY BURIED, SAFE FROM THE BANDITOS! WE WANT YOU TO HAVE IT FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE!
YOU'RE MISTAKEN, AMIGO...


...I DID NOT RISK MY LIFE FOR YOU! IT WAS MY HATRED OF ZAMORA! I'VE KNOWN MANY EVIL MEN LIKE HIM! SUCH MEN MADE ME AN OUTLAW! SUCH MEN KEEP ME AN OUTLAW!
GRACIAS, SEÑOR, BUT I CANNOT TAKE YOUR MONEY! FOR WHAT I DID...

...I DID FOR MYSELF!

LOOK AT HIM WELL, AMIGOS...FOR THERE GOES A MAN, THE LIKES OF WHICH WE MAY NEVER SEE AGAIN!
THE END

RAWHIDE KID

"THE BIRTH OF A LEGEND!"

SCRIPT: STAN LEE • ART: JACK DAVIS • LETTERING: ART SIMEK

SAY, CALEB, WHO WOULD YUH SAY IS FASTER-- WILD BILL HICKOK OR THE RAWHIDE KID?
AINT NO ARGUMENT! EVERYBODY KNOWS IT'S THE KID!
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN! I SAW THE KID ONCE--I'LL NEVER FORGET 'IM!!
WHAT WAS HE LIKE, CALEB?

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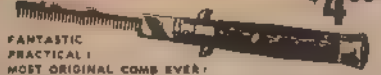

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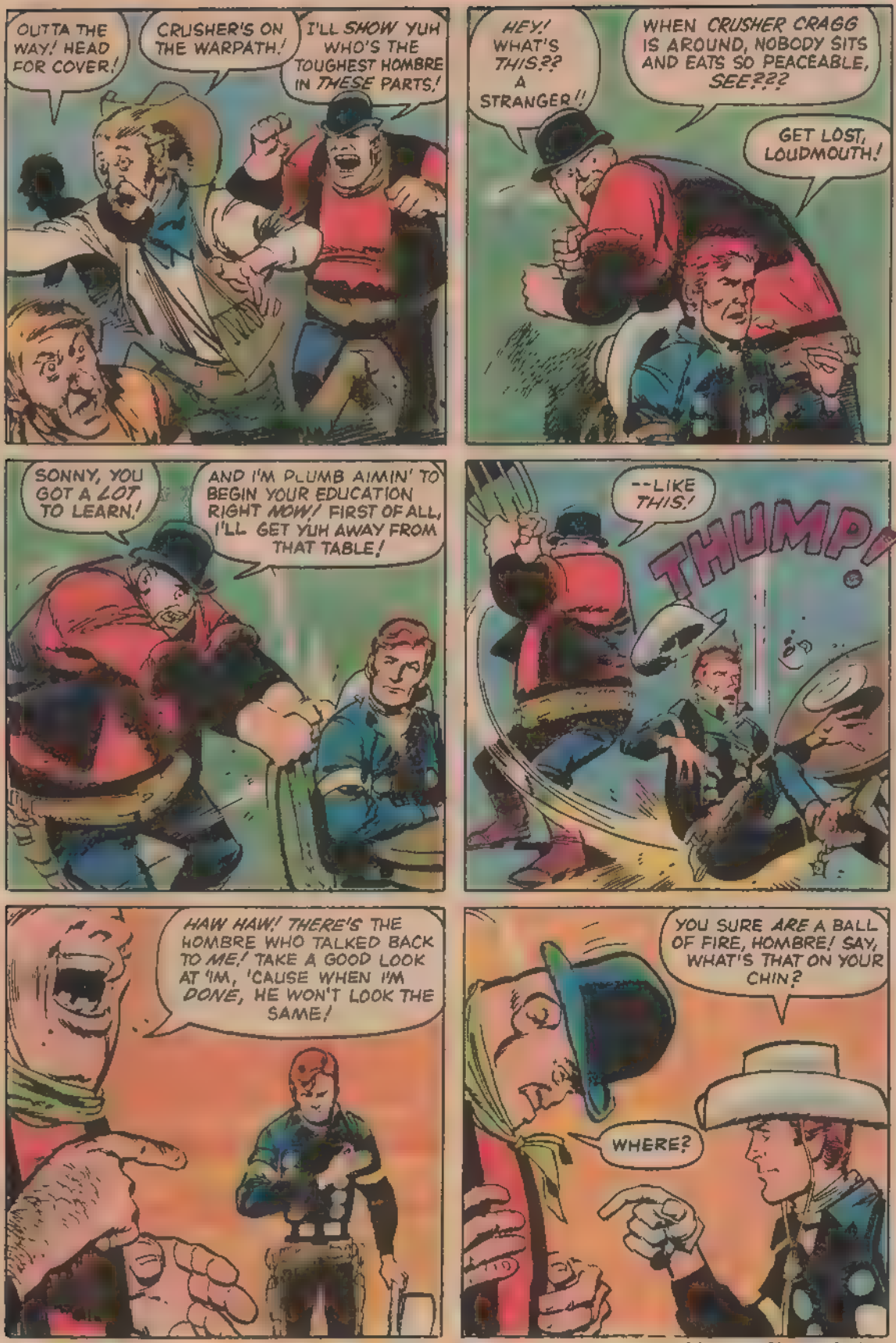
I HEARD HE'S GOT HANDS LIKE A GORILLA! BIG AND STRONG! COULD BREAK A MAN IN TWO!
YEAH! HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE STRONG AS A BULL, AND TWICE AS ORNERY! FOLKS SAY HE CAN OUT-RASSLE A MOUNTAIN LION!
AND FAST! HE CAN DRAW HIS GUNS AND HAVE 'EM FIRIN' BEFORE YOU CAN BLINK YORE EYE!
THEY SAY HE CAN SHOOT FOUR GUNS AT ONCE!
AND I HEERD FOLKS SAY HE COULD WHUP SIX MEN AT ONCE WITH HIS BARE HANDS! HE'S SO BIG 'N STRONG THAT NOTHIN' CAN HURT 'IM!
SURE! WHEN A HOMBRE'S SEVEN FEET TALL AND WEIGHS CLOSE TO 250 POUNDS, YOU GOT A HEAP OF MAN THERE, MISTER!
I HEERD WHAT YOU ALL BEEN SAYIN'!! I DON'T LIKE FOR ANYONE TO SAY THAT THERE'S A HOMBRE IN THE WEST WHO'S BIGGER OR STRONGER THAN ME!!
IT'S CRUSHER CRAGG, THE TOWN BULLY!
RECKON WE'RE IN FOR TROUBLE NOW!


OUTTA THE WAY! HEAD FOR COVER!
CRUSHER'S ON THE WARPATH!
I'LL SHOW YUH WHO'S THE TOUGHEST HOMBRE IN THESE PARTS!
HEY! WHAT'S THIS?? A STRANGER!!
WHEN CRUSHER CRAGG IS AROUND, NOBODY SITS AND EATS SO PEACEABLE, SEE???
GET LOST, LOUDMOUTH!
SONNY, YOU GOT A LOT TO LEARN!
AND I'M PLUMB AIMIN' TO BEGIN YOUR EDUCATION RIGHT NOW! FIRST OF ALL, I'LL GET YUH AWAY FROM THAT TABLE!
--LIKE THIS!
THUMP!
HAW HAW! THERE'S THE HOMBRE WHO TALKED BACK TO ME! TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT 'IM, 'CAUSE WHEN I'M DONE, HE WON'T LOOK THE SAME!
YOU SURE ARE A BALL OF FIRE, HOMBRE! SAY, WHAT'S THAT ON YOUR CHIN?
WHERE?

Stan Lee PRESENTS: MARVEL® BULLPEN BULLETINS

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STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Stop the presses! We just changed the title of our next great "Origins" book! Instead of THE SUPER WOMEN, it will be called THE SUPERHERO WOMEN when it explodes like a literary bombshell in bookstores everywhere sometime in October! We probably had a sensational reason for changing the title to THE SUPERHERO WOMEN, and I'd like to tell you what it was—except I forgot! Anyway, I'll tell you the contents next ish; for now, I just wanted to make sure that you're not spending all your spare time trying to remember the wrong title! Incidentally, if there's a Marvel fan anywhere whom I haven't met at some zingy Comicon or other, here's your chance to remedy that grevious situation. I'm scheduled to appear at the great new Chicago Con on August 6th, and the Houston Con on August 19th. If you're in the neighborhood, drop in and say hello. You know how shy I am—I need all the support I can get. Hey! Don't let me forget another big item! Our great new 1978 calendar goes on sale the end of August! This is the yoomiest one of all, 'cause it's one huge Spider-Man Calendar! Yep, the whole blamed thing is a towering tribute to the world's most popular super-hero—and it'll be on sale in bookstores everywhere! And how's this for a block-busting announcement--? The great new *live-action* CBS-TV prime-time Spider-Man made-for-television movie should be premiering some time in September. Watch for the announcements in your local newspaper. But even if you miss the paper, don't worry—the whole town'll be talking about it! And just wait'll we tell you—in future issues—about the whole kaboodle of Marvel movies which Universal Pictures is working on right now! And finally, while you're writing to your local newspaper, telling 'em you can't wait for Howard the Duck, here's a little something to keep you busy. See if you can figure out what PIZZAZZ is—and guess who's publishing it! (Aww, someone musta given you a hint!) More info later—we've gotta keep some surprises for next month! But now, as we tearfully bite each other an emotion-drenched adieu, let us always remember those immortal words of Irving Forbush: "Hey, Lee, shaddup awreddy and let's get to the good stuff!" Or, as the Hulk would probably say: "Oui s'excuse s'accuse!"

Excelsior!

Stan

Hey, like it? It's gonna be our new trade mark!

ITEM! Let's start by rolling out the welcome mat for Rambling RICK PARKER, late of the sunshine state of Florida, who has just become the latest recruit to the Bullpen's legion of lettering correctionists. (Yes, hard as it is to believe, even *our* laudable letterers and winning writers make occasional mistakes.) Rick also promises to be a worthy addition to the Merry Marvel Softball Team, which is about to leap into league action once again (more of that at a later date). Also joining our sterling staff is Slim JIM SALICRUP. Actually, *re-joining* would be more correct—as Jim did a sizeable stretch in our British Reprint Department, until he was wooed away to labor in the corporate corridors of the monolithic Mad Genius Associates (otherwise known as Steve Gerber, Dave Kraft, and whoever happens to be in the office with them at any given moment). Now, Mr. Salicrup is back to take over the editing of our American reprint books. Good to have you with us again, Jim.

ITEM! As long as we're being effusive, let's also congratulate ROGER "Sterno" STERN and Gentle JO DUFFY, editorial experts extraordinaire, on their recent promotions higher into the hierarchy of our color comics editorial department, as a result of ROGER SLIFER's move up to helm our black-and-white comic mags (which we reported on last month). And, though they technically haven't had any kind of promotion, we should also mention Energetic ED HANNIGAN and Reliable RALPH MACCHIO, because they sometimes proofread this column, and we wouldn't want any mizzteaks to creeeep in juzt becuz of hert feeligz.

ITEM! Now that your who's-working-at-which-job scorecard is brought up to date, we can fill you in on some of the pulsating projects the folks mentioned above—along with myriad other of our titanic talents—have readied for your enjoyment this late summer season. Like, for instance, the *second* of our Marvel Movie Specials, THE DEEP. Editor ROGER SLIFER has teamed writer DOUG MOENCH, whose PLANET OF THE APES adaptations are *still* drawing praise, with illustrator CARMINE INFANTINO (his distinct approach to underwater action in this project has us all wondering if perhaps this isn't the perfect guy to bring Prince Namor, the savage SUB-MARINER, back in his own series!) on this all-stops-out adaptation of the motion picture adventure based on PETER "Jaws" BENCHLEY's best selling novel. It's all here, just like in the blockbuster Columbia film—the shipwreck, the dive for sunken treasure, the school of sharks in their feeding frenzy, and the ever-mounting menace of the giant eel! We've done this one up in a double-length color comic package to give it to you complete in one issue. THE DEEP will be waiting for you this month at your local newsstand. Don't miss it. It's a big one!

ITEM! But THE DEEP is not the only double-length book aimed your way this August. Our King-Size Summer Annuals are still coming out in force. There's the INCREDIBLE HULK, plotted and plotted by the Lively One himself, LEN WEIN, scripted by DAVE "The Dude" KRAFT, and illustrated by Happy HERB TRIMPE (who, with his art chores on our new GODZILLA comic, as well as his long-time association with the Hulk, may just about have the *greenskin* market sewn up tight), then, there's the FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL in which MARV WOLFMAN and KEITH POLLARD, writer and artist respectively, ingeniously pit the World's Greatest Comics Team against not only the uncanny Inhumans, but against the Gong Show as well, and finally, there's Stellar JIM STARLIN's awesome AVENGERS ANNUAL which guest-stars Captain Marvel and Warlock and cosmically chronicles Earth's Mightiest Heroes' epic struggle against the mad Titan, Thanos. In fact, *so* epic is this struggle that the second part of it will be presented in the TWO-IN-ONE ANNUAL (on sale in September) and involve Spider-

Man and the ever-lovin' blue-eyed Thing! So, that's four to watch for, but if you want *more* (plus an end to this doggerel), may we point out that August also holds two Marvel Classics, KIDNAPPED and PIT AND THE PENDULUM; two of our cooperative efforts with the happy folks of Hanna-Barbera, YOGI BEAR and DYNOMUTT, and, lastly but decidedly not leastly, two new issues of black-and-white magazine favorites, THE RAMPAGING HULK and SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN. If you need help shortening the long, hot summer, these Bullpen bonuses may be just what you want!

We hate to close the page on a solemn note, but by now you've been hit with the hard fact that the price of our regular color comics has risen to thirty-five cents and our double-length books have gone up to sixty cents. Naturally, we owe you an explanation. Unfortunately, if you've had to buy a candy bar, a paperback book, or—heaven forbid—a pound of coffee, the answer is already obvious. Ever-spiraling costs; ever-mounting inflation. Once again we've been faced with rising printing, engraving, and paper prices, and once again we've reached the point where we're forced to make *our* prices reflect those new costs. We're sorry. We've tried to hold the line as long as possible, and we succeeded in doing it several *months* longer than any of our competitors. We hope that's helped a little. Your loyalty and support in the past made us the number one comic book company, and we appreciate it greatly. Now, we're going to be working all the harder to *keep* that loyalty and support, to produce the very best possible comics available. . . at any price. And that's a promise, pal!

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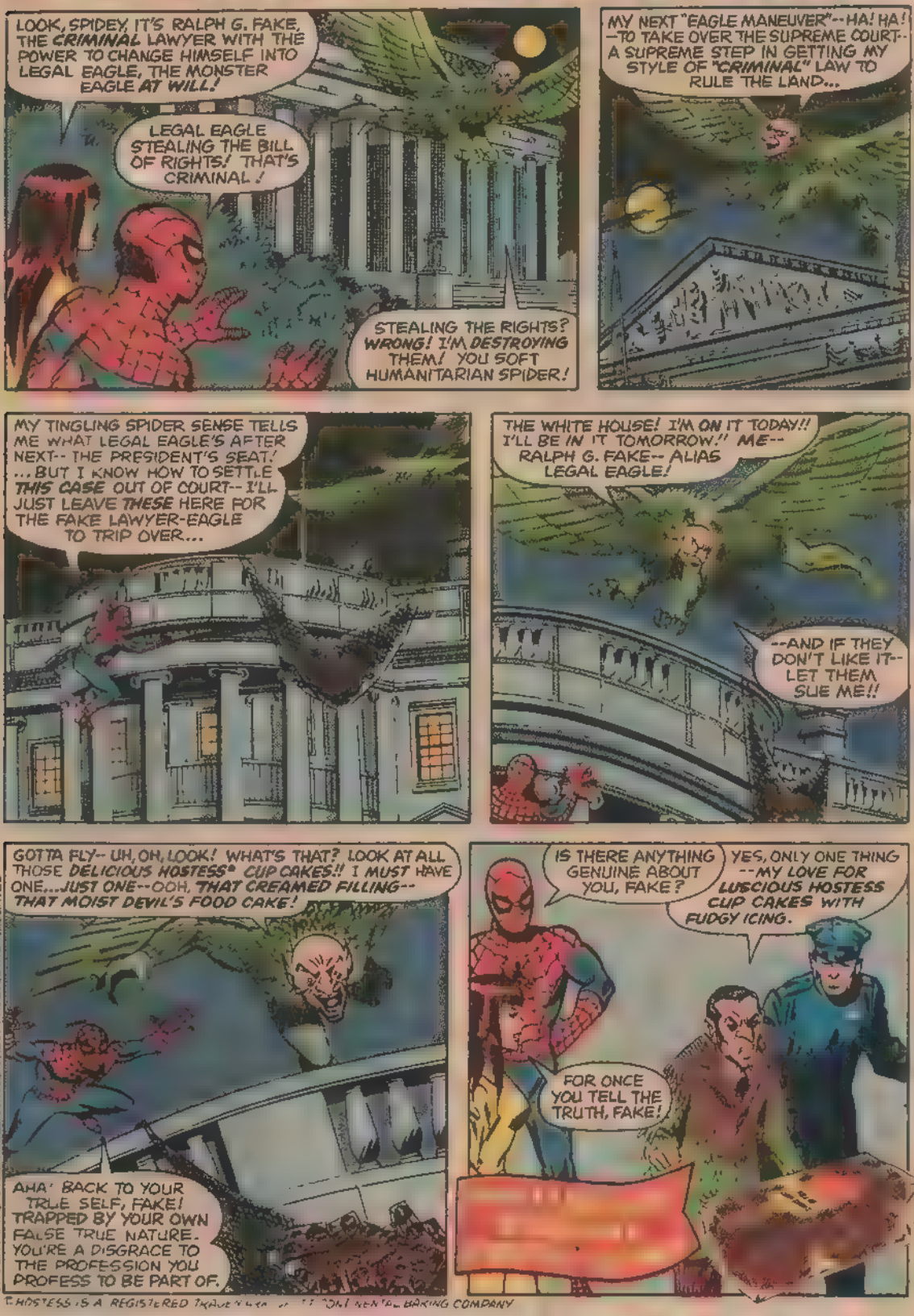
SPIDER-MAN® IN "LEGAL EAGLE"


LOOK, SPIDEY, IT'S RALPH G. FAKE, THE CRIMINAL LAWYER WITH THE POWER TO CHANGE HIMSELF INTO LEGAL EAGLE, THE MONSTER EAGLE AT WILL!
LEGAL EAGLE STEALING THE BILL OF RIGHTS! THAT'S CRIMINAL!
STEALING THE RIGHTS? WRONG! I'M DESTROYING THEM! YOU SOFT HUMANITARIAN SPIDER!
MY NEXT "EAGLE MANEUVER"--HA! HA!--TO TAKE OVER THE SUPREME COURT--A SUPREME STEP IN GETTING MY STYLE OF "CRIMINAL" LAW TO RULE THE LAND...
MY TINGLING SPIDER SENSE TELLS ME WHAT LEGAL EAGLE'S AFTER NEXT-- THE PRESIDENT'S SEAT! ...BUT I KNOW HOW TO SETTLE THIS CASE OUT OF COURT-- I'LL JUST LEAVE THESE HERE FOR THE FAKE LAWYER-EAGLE TO TRIP OVER...
THE WHITE HOUSE! I'M ON IT TODAY!! I'LL BE IN IT TOMORROW!! ME-- RALPH G. FAKE-- ALIAS LEGAL EAGLE!
--AND IF THEY DON'T LIKE IT-- LET THEM SUE ME!!
GOTTA FLY-- UH, OH, LOOK! WHAT'S THAT? LOOK AT ALL THOSE DELICIOUS HOSTESS® CUP CAKES!! I MUST HAVE ONE...JUST ONE--OOH, THAT CREAMED FILLING-- THAT MOIST DEVIL'S FOOD CAKE!
AHA! BACK TO YOUR TRUE SELF, FAKE! TRAPPED BY YOUR OWN FALSE TRUE NATURE. YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO THE PROFESSION YOU PROFESS TO BE PART OF.
IS THERE ANYTHING GENUINE ABOUT YOU, FAKE?
YES, ONLY ONE THING --MY LOVE FOR LUSCIOUS HOSTESS CUP CAKES WITH FUDGY ICING.
FOR ONCE YOU TELL THE TRUTH, FAKE!

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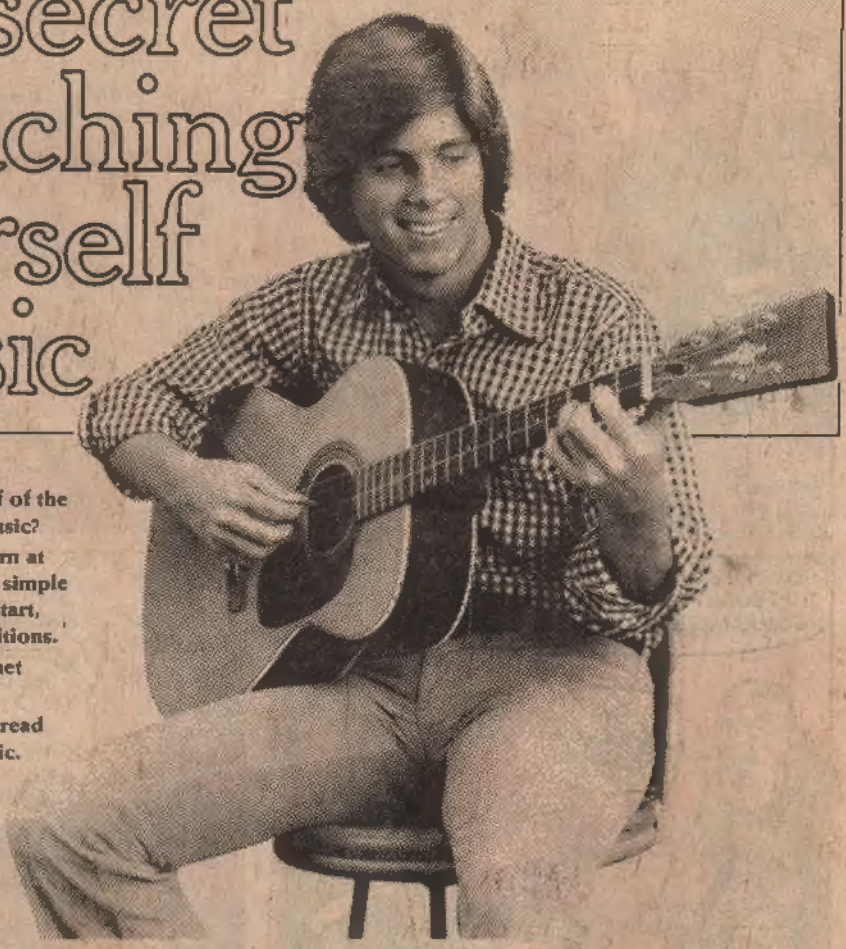
RIGHT THERE!
HOW COME YOU AINT LAUGHIN' UP A STORM NOW, CRUSHER?
OWW! DON'T!! NO--
RELAX, BIG MAN! IT'LL ALL BE OVER ALMOST BEFORE YUH KNOW IT!
I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME, AMIGO! I SEEM TO HAVE MADE YOU DROP YOUR HAT!
WHAT HIT ME? WHAT HAPPENED?
HARDLY ANYTHING HAPPENED COMPARED TO WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN IF YOU DON'T CLEAR OUTTA HERE IN NOTHIN' FLAT!
YEOW!?
I'M GOIN'! I'M GOIN'!

WHERE'D THOSE GUNS COME FROM??? I DIDN'T SEE 'IM DRAW!!
NOBODY EVER BEAT CRUSHER BEFORE!
CAN'T HARDLY BELIEVE IT!
SORRY FOR THE RUCKUS, MISTER! HERE-- THIS OUGHTTA PAY FOR THE DAMAGE-- COMPLIMENTS OF THE RAWHIDE KID!
THE RAWHIDE KID??!!
IT WAS HIM! THE KID HIMSELF!
WE SHOULDA KNOWED!
LET'S GO, NIGHTWIND! WE GOT SOME RIDIN' TO DO!
WE CAN TELL OUR GRAND-CHILDREN ABOUT THIS!
I HEARD SOME SHOTS! WHAT HAPPENED?
THE RAWHIDE KID WAS HERE, SHERIFF! HE BEAT CRUSHER CRAGG TO A FRAZZLE!
NEVER SAW THE LIKE! HE'S A BORN KILLER! LUCKY HE DIDN'T GUN US ALL DOWN!
AND SO THE LEGEND GROWS ... AND GROWS...
HE WAS OVER SEVEN FEET ALL-- WITH SHOULDERS LIKE A BUFFALO!
HANDS LIKE HAMS! A VOICE LIKE THUNDER!
FIRED FOUR GUNS AT ONCE--BUT THAT'S EASY --FOR A GIANT!
the END

The secret of teaching yourself music



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Here's a pleasant way to learn at home in spare time. You play simple familiar tunes right from the start, then more advanced compositions.

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It may seem odd at first – the idea of teaching yourself music. You might think you need a private teacher at $4 to $10 per hour to stand beside you and explain everything you should do – and to tell you when you've made a mistake.

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You don't need any previous musical training. Our lessons start you off "from scratch" with clear word-and-picture instructions. A lot of the songs you practice first are simple tunes you've heard many times. And since you already know how these tunes are supposed to sound, you can tell immediately when you've "got them right."

Then you go on to more advanced pieces. By this time you can tell if your notes and timing are right, even without ever having heard the songs before. Sooner than you might think possible, you'll be able to play whatever kind of music you like. Folk. Popular. Classical. Show and dance tunes. Hymns.

You learn in your spare time, in the privacy and comfort of your own home. There's no one standing over you to make you nervous. And because you teach yourself, you can set your own pace. You're free to spend as much time mastering any lesson as you wish.

How effective are the lessons? Ask Jeffrey Livingston of York, Pa. "I thought the organ course was excellent," he writes. "I knew almost nothing about playing an instrument before I enrolled. Now I can play not only the organ, but the piano too. My new music ability has enabled me to play at churches and small conventions. I am even considering making music my career."

And, Cecelia Feeney of Vineland, N.J. reports: "It's like a dream come true. Knowing how to play and read music has given me new self-confidence."

If you've ever dreamed of being able to play the piano, the guitar, or the spinet organ, why not learn more about our convenient, economical way to learn? Send for our free booklet *Be Your Own Music Teacher*. With it we'll include a free "Note-Finder." There's no obligation. Just mail the coupon to the U.S. SCHOOL OF MUSIC, A Home Study School Since 1898, 417 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

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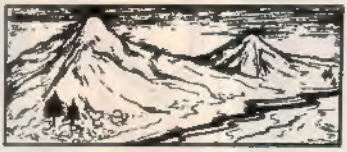

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